

The British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's Focus on Airshed and Watershed Management Planning in the Georgia Basin.

Stephanie Meyn, B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection*

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The British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is shifting towards a greater focus on ecosystem-level management planning with local stakeholders. Specifically, these planning initiatives include water management plans (to protect groundwater and surface water supply and quality) and air quality management plans (to protect airsheds and reduce emissions). In general, water management planning involves an initial assessment of water quality and flow regimes, with respect to the needs of the aquatic ecosystem and other user groups. Stakeholders, including local water and land use decision-makers, are informed of both current and future forecast scenarios. A committee representing all key stakeholders is brought together to protect the resource for identified needs, and to carry out the needed changes that have wide support. Airshed management planning is usually initiated with the scientific characterization of the airshed to give an understanding of pollutant origin and behaviour, followed by a partnership approach to implementing those emission reduction measures that best suit the needs of the communities while also meeting the goals of the airshed management plan. Specific examples of planning initiatives in the Georgia Basin include: Sea-to-Sky Air Quality Management Plan, Chapman/Gray Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Haslam Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan.